

Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
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#### 0167.3 - **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on District matters.

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register his/her intent with the Superintendent no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the meeting and include:

- A. name and address of the participant;
- B. group affiliation, if and when appropriate;
- C. topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent and the board president.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every regular meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation in board meetings.

The presiding officer of each board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted:
  - 1. only as indicated on the order of business of this Board;
  - 2. before the Board takes official action on any issue of substance;
  - 3. at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- B. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
- C. Participants must complete the appropriate form and be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.
- G. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question board members individually.
- H. The presiding officer may:
  - 1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
  - 2. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - 3. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;

4. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action;

5. waive these rules.

I. The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, however this may be extended at the discretion of the presiding officer.

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M.C.L. 15.263(4)(5)(6), 380.1808